

Message Text

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SUBJ: MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT ASKS FOR CONSTRUCTION MORATORIUM
ON GARRISON PROJECT

1. DAN MCKENZIE, PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE MP, ISSUED PRESS STATEMENT AUGUST 17 CALLING FOR CONSTRUCTION MORATORIUM ON GARRISON PROJECT BECAUSE OF INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION DELAY IN PRESENTING ITS REPORT. MCKENZIE ALSO CRITICIZES CONGRESSMAN MARK ANDREWS FOR ALLEGEDLY MAKING CONTRADICTORY STATEMENTS REGARDING CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY WHICH MIGHT AFFECT CANADA.

2. FOLLOWING IS FULL TEXT OF STATEMENT: BEGIN TEXT. " A RECENT DECISION TO DELAY IJC RECOMMENDATIONS UNTIL JUNE 1977 SHOULD BE ACCCOMPANIED BY A CONSTRUCTION MORATORIUM ON THE GARRISON PROJECT," MR. MCKENZIE STATED TODAY.

DAN MCKENZIE, PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE, ST. JAMES-ASSINIBOIA, STATED THAT THE DECISION TO DELAY IJC RECOMMENDATIONS WILL ALLOW THE PROJECT BUILDER, THE BUREAU OF RECLAMATION TO CONTINUE BUILDING ESSENTIAL PROJECT FEATURES THAT WILL POTENTIALLY AFFECT CANADA.

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"THE DECISION TO DELAY THE RECOMMENDATIONS WILL

MEAN THAT THE BUREAU OF RECLAMATION WILL CONTINUE CONSTRUCTION OF LONETREE RESERVIOR FOR WHICH THEY ALREADY RECEIVED 1976-1977 FUNDING APPROVAL EVEN THOUGH THE CONGRESSIONAL HOUSE SUB-COMMITTEE OF GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS HAVE UNANIMOUSLY DECLARED THAT LONETREE RESERVIOR WILL POTENTIALLY AFFECT CANADA", HE SAID, "IT WILL ALSO MEAN THAT THE BUREAU WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEEK APPROVAL FOR FUNDING FOR THE 77-78 BUDGET YEAR BEFORE THE IJC MAKES ITS RECOMMENDATIONS IN JUNE 1977" HE ADDED. "THE IJC SHOULD TAKE ALL THE TIME IT REQUIRES IN ORDER TO CONCLUDE WITH APPROPRIATE RECOMMENDATIONS, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF THE FACT THAT THE BUREAU HAS, TO DATE NOT COMPLETED ESSENTIAL IMPACT STATEMENTS ON THE SOURIS LOOP AND CENTRAL NORTH DAKOTA SECTIONS OF THE PROJECT, BOTH OF WHICH WILL RESULT IN RETURN FLOWS TO CANADA. HOWEVER, IT SHOULD BE QUITE CLEAR TO BOTH GOVERNMENTS BY NOW THAT THE BUREAU INTENDS TO BUILD AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE AND AS FAST POSSIBLE TO THE POINT WHERE IT IS NOT ECONOMICALLY FEASIBLE TO STOP CONSTRUCTION, EVEN SHOULD THE IJC RECOMMEND THAT THE PROJECT HAS ALREADY COST OVER 100 MILLION DOLLARS AND ALLOW THE BUREAU TO REQUEST FURTHER FUNDING UP TO AND INCLUDING 1978 WILL INEVITABLY JEOPARDIZE CANADIAN INTEREST IN THE LONG RUN. THE ONLY FEASIBLE SOLUTION IS TO DECLARE A MORATORIUM OF CONSTRUCTION UNTIL THE IJC PRESENTS ITS RECOMMENDATIONS TO BOTH GOVERNMENTS...HOWEVER LONG THAT WILL TAKE", HE SAID.

MR. MCKENZIE WAS ALSO CRITICAL OF CONGRESSMAN MARK ANKREWS (REPUBLICAN-NORTH DAKOTA) WHO DURING THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET DEBATE IN JUNE 1976 HAD STATED THAT "...THE DECISION TO REGULATE FLOWS TO CANADA WILL BE MADE BY THE IJC IN OCTOBER (1976) BEFORE THE FIRST OF THE FISCAL YEAR (NOVEMBER 1976). NONE OF THE MONEY WILL BE AVAILABLE UNTIL AFTER THE DECISION OF THE IJC." "YET" STATED MCKENZIE, "CONGRESSMAN ANDREWS HAS BEEN QUOTED BY THE AUGUST 15 TH EDITION OF THE FARGO FORUM THAT THE DECISION TO DELAY IJC RECOMMENDATIONS WILL NOT MEAN A CONSTRUCTION DELAY IN NORTH DAKOTA". "THIS IMPLIES TO ME", MR. MCKENZIE CONCLUDED, "THAT CONGRESS-UNCLASSIFIED

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MAN ANDREWS IS SAYING ONE THING TO CONGRESS TO JUSTIFY FUNDING AND APPEASE CANADIAN CONCERN OVER THE PROJECT WITHIN CONGRESS WHILE SAYING THE COMPLETE OPPOSITE TO THE PEOPLE OF NORTH DAKOTA". END TEXT.

3. COMMENT: MCKENZIE'S REACTION IS NOT SURPRISING. ANY DELAYS WHICH MIGHT AFFECT A RESOLUTION OF THE GARRISON PROJECT CERTAINLY AROUSES CANADIAN SUSPICIONS.

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